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INFORMATION REPORT
CONFIDENTIAL

CD NO

31 JAN 51

SUBJECT North Korean Naval Equipment from the USSR

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3. Seven torpedo boats of the North Korean Second Fleet were purchased by the North Korean government from the USSR.* The price of the seven craft was 4,500,000 North Korean won,** although the Soviets had already used 280 hours of the theoretical 300 hours of service for which each was good. The torpedoes, with a propeller rotation rate of 800 to 1200 RPM instead of the 2200 RPM for which they had been designed, were purchased at 500,000 won each. The seven vessels were all out of action because of mechanical difficulties by 27 August 1950.
2. The craft TROSS, flagship of the North Korean 3 Fleet Unit, was purchased from the USSR for 25,000,000 won, although it reputedly originated in the Russo-Japanese War. It was armed with one 105mm gun, two 45mm guns, and four anti-aircraft machine guns of unknown calibre. The TROSS was sunk by UN planes on 25 August, and two other unidentified ships of the same fleet unit were damaged.
3. The USSR charged the North Korean government 3,000 won per thousand rounds for machine gun bullets.

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*  Comment. Dates of purchase were not stated.

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** [REDACTED] Comment. In view of the lack of information as to date of transaction, no equivalent sum can be expressed in hard currency. The naval personnel stating the price found it excessive.

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